AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A mutant~~ An isolated mutant α-amylase which is derived from an α-amylase having an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4 ~~No. 4 or showing at least 60% homology thereto~~ by substitution or deletion of at least one amino acid residue corresponding to any one of Asp_{128}, Gly_{140}, Ser_{144}, Arg_{168}, Asn_{181}, Glu_{207}, Phe_{272}, Ser_{375}, Trp_{434} and Glu_{466} of the amino acid sequence, wherein said mutant continues to function as an amylase.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The isolated mutant α-amylase according to claim 2, wherein the substitution or deletion of at least one amino acid residue is substitution of the amino acid residue corresponding to Asp_{128} with Val or Gln, the amino acid residue corresponding to Gly_{140} with Ser, the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser_{144} with Pro, the amino acid residue corresponding to Arg_{168} with Gln, the amino acid residue corresponding to ~~Gln_{181}~~ Asn_{181} with Val, the amino acid residue corresponding to Glu_{207} with Asp, the amino acid residue corresponding to Phe_{272} with Ser, the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser_{375} with Pro, the amino acid residue corresponding to Trp_{434} with Arg or the amino acid residue corresponding to Glu_{466} with Asp.

5. (Withdrawn) A gene encoding a mutant α-amylase as claimed in claim 4, or a vector containing said gene.

6. (Withdrawn) A cell transformed by a vector as claimed in claim 5.

7. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a mutant α-amylase, which comprises cultivating a transformant cell as claimed in claim 6.

8. (Currently Amended) A detergent composition comprising a mutant α-amylase as claimed in claim 4.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 and 3 were previously canceled.

Claims 2 and 4 have been amended.

Support for the amendment of Claims 2 and 4 is provided by the corresponding claims as originally filed and the specification at pages 4-12.

No new matter has been entered by the present amendments.